HARVARD UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

OF THE

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy

1,413

A CATALOGUE

OF

EGGS

SENT FROM LAPLAND,

BY

JOHN WOLLEY, Junr., Esq., M.A., F.Z.S.,

IN THE YEAR 1856.

Which will be sold by Auction, by

MR. J. C. STEVENS,

At his Great Room,

38, KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN,

On TUESDAY, 12th day of MAY, 1857,

At One o'Clock precisely.

The Eggs will be on view the day before and the morning of the Sale, and Catalogues may be had of Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King Street, Covent Garden.

H. W. Hutchings, Printer, 63, Snow Hill, London.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

FIRST.

The highest bidder to be the purchaser, and if any dispute arise between two or more bidders, the lot to be immediately put up again, and re-sold.

SECOND.

No person to advance less than one shilling at each bidding; above two pounds, two shillings; and so on in proportion.

THIRD.

Each Purchaser shall give his name and place of abode, and pay down immediately 25 per cent., if required, on the amount of the purchase, as a deposit; and the remainder must absolutely be paid before the delivery of the lots.

FOURTH.

The lots to be cleared away, with all faults and errors of every description, at the buyer's expense, the day after the sale.

LAST.

The lots must be cleared according to the Third and Fourth conditions, in default of which the Vendor shall be at full liberty to re-sell the said lot or lots, the deposit-money shall be forfeited, and the deficiency (if any) attending such re-sale, together with the expenses attending the same, shall be made good by the Purchaser at this sale.

NOTE.

Mr. John Wolley wishes it to be stated that the eggs now offered for sale were taken in Lapland in the year 1856. During the nesting season Mr. Wolley was not in Lapland, but he returned to that country in the latter part of the last summer, and has since made it his especial business to gather from the different collectors employed by him, full particulars of their captures. Most, if not all, these collectors have an exceedingly good knowledge of the birds, frequenting the districts where they live; and Mr. Wolley was most particular in enjoining that they should carefully identify the different nests obtained by them. These injunctions, Mr. Wolley believes have been strictly attended to—at all events, as far as the eggs included in the present sale are concerned, —accordingly, he has little doubt, but that they are as thoroughly to be depended upon, as any he has before offered to the public.

Nearly all the skins obtained in 1856, and formerly, have been presented to the Norfolk and Norwich Museum at Norwich, where they can readily be consulted.

The nomenclature made use of in the following Catalogue, is, as far as is possible, that of M. Temminck and the late Mr. Yarrell; and, as formerly, the letters "F." and "S." signify that the nest was taken in Finland (Russia), or Sweden respectively.

Each egg has inscribed upon it a reference to the page in Mr. Wolley's note book, which contains an account of the circumstances under which it was procured; and to

such collectors as desire to know more on this point, Mr. Wolley will be happy to give every particular. In addition to this, each egg will be found to have a label affixed, bearing the number of the Lot, and the date of the sale, by which means its identity may be always preserved.

It is particularly requested that the eggs may not be handled; such as are at all defective are so entered in the Catalogue.

CATALOGUE.

Osprey. *Falco Haliætus.* It is, perhaps, generally supposed that the eggs of the American bird (*Pandion Caroliensis* of Prince C. L. Bonaparte) may be readily distinguished from European specimens by their duller colouring. This, however, does not seem to be always the case, as in an extensive series of transatlantic examples, there may generally be found some quite equal to European ones in depth of colour. During the last season not nearly so many eggs of this bird were brought in as in 1855.

Lot 1. One, "Sarkiwara, F., 2 June."
„ 2. One, same nest.
„ 3. One, same nest.
„ 4. One, "Jokiwara, F., 4 June."
„ 5. One, same nest.
„ 6. One, same nest, slightly cracked.
„ 7. One, "Akes Lombola, F."
„ 8. One, same nest.
„ 9. One, same nest.
„ 10. One, "Toras Sieppi," F.
„ 11. One, same nest.

Merlin. *Falco Æsalon.* It is still satisfactory to know that no hawk laying similar eggs is found in the district whence come the following lots.

Lot 12. Three, "Kihlongi, F."
„ 13. Three, "Pulu, F."
„ 14. Three, "Kongas-jervi, F."
„ 15. Two, same nest.

Goshawk. *Falco Palumbarius.* Many of the eggs commonly seen in collections as those of this species seem to be wrongly named. Some, from their small size, are doubtless selected varieties of those of the Common Buzzard; others may very possibly be the produce of the American *Astur atricapillus* of Prince C. L. Bonaparte, a bird of which no trace has ever been discovered in Lapland.

Lot 16. One. Though marked "Contanen," a village on the Swedish side, this egg was taken from a nest in Finland, nearly thirty English miles to the north-east, which must be on the extreme limits of the Scotch-fir forests.
" 17. One, same nest.
" 18. One, same nest.
" 19. One, same nest.
" 20. One, "Jerisjervi, F., 21st. May."
" 21. One, same nest.
" 22. One, same nest.

Rough-legged Buzzard. *Falco Lagopus.* Mr. Wolley has the satisfaction of still being without any indication of the occurrence of the Common Buzzard in Lapland. All the eggs, which compose the following lots, are from a district whence he has had so many clear proofs of the presence of the Rough-legged species, without the slightest exception, that he is very confident that they may be depended upon.

Lot 23. Three, "Palajoki," F.
" 24. Three, same place.
" 25. Two, same place.
" 26. Two, same place.
" 27. One, same place.
" 28. One, same place.
" 29. One, same place.

Hawk Owl. *Strix Funerea.* This species is one of the most uncertain breeders in Lapland. They have been very scarce in the districts, where Mr. Wolley's collections have been formed, since 1853; and it may be years before another inroad of Lemmings induces them to return in any numbers.

Lot 30. One, "Kurkiovara, F."
" 31. One, same nest.
" 32. One, same nest. Has a large hole.
" 33. One, same nest. Ditto.
" 34. One, same nest. Is slightly cracked.
" 35. One same nest. Ditto.

Eagle Owl. *Strix Bubo.* The eggs of this bird from Lapland may be received with perfect confidence. Unfortunately, all the

three specimens now offered have been more or less injured by the frost.

Lot 36. One, "Salmojervi, F., Apl."
,, 37. One, same nest.
,, 38. One, same nest.

Fieldfare. *Turdus Pilaris.* This bird still continues to be scarce in Lapland ; the following are the only eggs brought in last year, in which Mr. Wolley has perfect confidence.

Lot 39. Three, "Karesuando," S. Dark variety.
,, 40. Two, same nest. Ditto.
,, 41. Three, "Markina." Light variety.
,, 42. Two, same nest. Ditto.

Redwing. *Turdus Iliacus.* The finders of all the eggs, which form the following lots, gave a very characteristic account of the nests.

Lot 43. Two, "Muoniovara," S. Dark variety.
,, 44. One, same nest.
,, 45. Two, "Modasjervi," Light variety.
,, 46. One, same nest. Deeply marked.
,, 47. Two, "Karesuando," S. Light variety.
,, 48. One, same nest. Deeply marked.

Blue-throated Warbler. *Sylvia Suecica.* The belief expressed by Mr. Wolley, in the Sale Catalogue of last year, that the Scandinavian form of this species seemed as likely as the Dutch to occur in England, appears to be quite correct. The first specimen of this bird recorded to have been met with in the British islands, killed in 1826, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and now preserved in the museum of that town, is a remarkably fine male, exhibiting the brilliant reddish brown "shield" in the centre of the blue throat, which is characteristic of the northern race or species, the true *Motacilla Suecica* of Linnæus, to which belong all the examples obtained by Mr. Wolley. Within the last year too, a bird was obtained near Lowestoft, and recorded in the "Zoologist," (page 5159) which exhibits, but in a less degree, the same peculiarities.

Lot 49. Two, "Palojoki," F.
,, 50. Two, same nest.
,, 51. Two, "Nyimakka," S.
,, 52. Two, same nest.
,, 53. One, same nest.

Siberian Titmouse. *Parus Sibiricus.* The only Titmouse at all abundant in the district whence come these eggs.

Lot 54. Three, "Keras Sieppi," F.
„ 55. Two, same nest.
„ 56. Two, same nest.

Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail. *Motacilla Flava.* The true *M. flava* of Linnæus.

Lot 57. Three, "Nyimakka," S.
„ 58. Two, "Nälima, F."
„ 59. Two, "Nälima, F." Large holes.

Bohemian Waxwing. *Bombycilla Garrula.* This egg, heretofore the greatest desideratum to all collections, and for the discovery of which such exertions have long been made by Continental ornithologists, is at last made known. An account of the breeding habits of the bird will shortly be communicated. It seems probable that the waxwing is as irregular in its summer as in its winter migrations, and that it was kept more than usual in the west part of the Arctic forests of the old world, by the stormy weather of last breeding season. Skins of both sexes in the nuptial dress, a nestling bird, and the nest itself, will be placed in the Norwich Museum.

Lot 60. One, "Soas Kongas," F. This, and the following egg will be figured in the "Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London," they were from a nest of five, upon which the hen bird was snared, and has been preserved.
„ 61. One, same nest.
„ 62. One, F. This egg was taken on the 8th, not on the 18th of July, the date erroneously written on the egg. It was just ready to hatch, and is the only egg of the nest, that has been tolerably well blown.

Brambling. *Fringilla Montifringilla.* Mr. Wolley believes, that the eggs forming the following lots are scarcely inferior in trustworthiness to those from the Fana district, which he last year offered. He has never known the Chaffinch at Karesuando.

Lot 63. Three, "Karesuando," S.
„ 64. Two, same nest.
„ 65. Three, "Maunu," S.
„ 66. Two, "Karesuando, S."
„ 67. One, same nest.
„ 68. One, same nest.
„ 69. One, same nest.

Mealy Redpole. *Fringilla Borealis.* This is undoubtedly iden-

tical with the species which visits England in the winter. It may be still an open question, whether the Mealy Redpole of Greenland (*Acanthis canescens*, Bonap. and Schl.) is specifically distinct from it, but there does not appear to be any instance on record of the Greenland bird being met with in this country.

Lot 70. Three, "Karesuando," S.
„ 71. Three, "Sardio, F."
„ 72. Two, "Sardio, F."
„ 73. One, same nest.
„ 74. One, same nest.
„ 75. One, same nest.

Pine Grosbeak. *Pyrrhula Enucleator.* Last year, Mr. Wolley had the good fortune to make known to naturalists, probably for the first time, the eggs of this species, two of which were figured by Mr. Hewitson in a supplementary plate to his work. (Pl. LIII.*) His collectors have since met with a few more nests, but the bird seems to be abundant nowhere in Lapland, and from the extent of the forests, not easily to be discovered.

Lot 76. One, "26 June, Mustavara, F."
„ 77. One, same nest.
„ 78. One, same nest.

Siberian Jay. *Garrulus Infaustus.* Common as the bird is, and obtrusive as its habits for three parts of the year are, its eggs are perhaps the most difficult to procure of any. Before winter has shewn a sign of departing, it begins to prepare its nest; and, in doing so, exercises all the cunning of its tribe to keep concealed the selected spot. Its eggs are, consequently, still unknown to most collectors, while, in some cabinets, they are represented by well-picked varieties of those of the Magpie, to which, indeed, they bear but slight resemblance.

Lot 79. One, "F. Sardio."
„ 80. One, same nest.
„ 81. One, "F. Rowa."
„ 82. One, same nest.
„ 83. One, same nest.

Willow Ptarmigan. *Tetrao Saliceti.* This bird appears to be the true *T. albus* of Linnæus, and in the doubtful state in which the knowledge of its congeners appears to be in, even with the most advanced ornithologists, eggs from this locality in Lapland, whence many skins have been brought to England, must always prove of value. For some cause the bird is very scarce just now in Lapland.

Lot 84. Two, F.
„ 85. Two, same place.
„ 86. One, same place.
„ 87. One, same place.
„ 88. One, same place.

Hazel Grouse. *Tetrao Bonasia.* The egg of this bird is very difficult to procure in Lapland, as the circumstance that the one, which forms the following lot, is from the first nest which Mr. Wolley has obtained from that country. It is interesting to observe in it the character of the eggs, both of the Black Grouse and Capercaillie.

Lot 89. One, "Kengas in Kittila, F."

Capercaillie. *Tetrao Urogallus.* The eggs now offered are like those in last year's Sale, from districts where the Black Grouse is unknown.

Lot 90. Three, "Nälima, F."
„ 91. Two, same nest.
„ 92. Two, same nest.
„ 93. One, "Sodankyla," F.
„ 94. One, same nest.
„ 95. One, same nest.

Spotted Redshank. *Totanus Fuscus.* Undoubtedly the egg of this bird is still one of the rarest, as well as the most beautiful, known to collectors; and the eggs offered for sale this year, are in no wise inferior to those of the two preceding.

Lot 96. One, "Aunas tunturi," F. This and the following are very deeply coloured specimens.
„ 97. One, same nest.
„ 98. One, "Salmojervi, F." Has a rich zone of markings.
„ 99. One "Toras Sieppi, F." A light green ground.
„ 100. One, same nest.
„ 101. One, same nest.
„ 102. One, "Wassara, F."
„ 103. One, same nest.
„ 104. One, another nest, same place. A light coloured egg.
„ 105. One "Palojoki,"F.

Wood Sandpiper. *Totanus Glareola.* This bird happens to have been very scarce during the past season in Lapland; and the following are more than half of its eggs that have been brought in to Mr. Wolley.

Lot 106. One, "Salmojervi, F."
„ 107. One, same nest.
„ 108. One, same nest.
„ 109. One "Sarkijervi, F."
„ 110. One, same nest.
„ 111. One, same nest.

Greenshank. *Totanus Glottis.* There seems scarcely any limit to the beautiful variety of the eggs of this bird.

Lot 112. One, "Aunas tunturi, F."
„ 113. One, same nest.
„ 114. One, same nest.
„ 115. One, same nest.
„ 116, One, "Salmojervi, F."
„ 117. One, same nest.
„ 118. One, same nest.
„ 119. One, same nest.
„ 120. One, "Maunu," S.
„ 121. One, same nest.
„ 122. One, same nest.
„ 123. One, same nest.

Jack Snipe. *Scolopax Gallinula.* This bird seems to be one of those, which, by their precautions, render their nests very hard to find. The following eggs were all taken from the neighbourhood of a lake, where not a single full snipe was seen, by one of Mr. Wolley's most careful collectors.

Lot 124. One "Vixi," S. "2nd Augst"
„ 125. One, same nest.
„ 126. One, same nest.
„ 127. One, same nest.
„ 128. One, "Vixi," S. "6th Augst"
„ 129. One, same nest.
„ 130. One, same nest.
„ 131. One, same nest.

Broad-billed Sandpiper. *Tringa Platyrhyncha.* The very limited range of this bird, during the breeding season, makes it highly improbable that its eggs will ever become common.

Lot 132. One, "Pallas uoma" F.
„ 133. One, same place.
„ 134. One, same place.
„ 135. One, same place.
„ 136. One, same place.
„ 137. One, same place.

Lot 138. One, same place.
„ 139. One, same place.
„ 140. One, same place.
„ 141. One, same place.

Temminck's Stint. *Tringa Temminckii.* It does not appear that we are any nearer the breeding places of the Little Stint than formerly, hence these eggs are not unworthy of confidence.

Lot 142. One, "Karesuando, S."
„ 143. One, same place.
„ 144. One, same place.
„ 145. One, same place.
„ 146. One, same place.
„ 147. One, same place.
„ 148. One, same place.
„ 149. One, same place.
„ 150. One, same place.
„ 151. One, same place.
„ 152. One, same place.
„ 153. One, same place.

White-fronted Goose. *Anas Albifrons.* There is little doubt but that the only White-fronted Geese, which breed in Lapland, are of the small-sized race, which Dr. Naumann has named *Anser minutus;* though, as long ago as the year 1767, Dr. Gunner, Bishop of Throndhjem, in a note to page 264 of Professor Leem's work, "*De Lapponibus Finmarchiæ*," described this form as distinct from the larger White-fronted Goose (the head-quarters of which would seem to be Arctic America and Iceland), under the name of *Anser Finmarchicus*, which name, as being probably the oldest one distinctive of the Lapland race, Mr. Wolley has used upon the eggs in the following lots.

Lot 154. One, "Muotka uoma," S.
„ 155. One, same nest. Slightly cracked.
„ 156. One, same nest.
„ 157. One, same place. Another nest.
„ 158. One, same nest.
„ 159. One, "Kautokeino," F.

Pintail. *Anas Acuta.* These eggs were found by a person who knew the bird well. Only one other nest was brought to Mr. Wolley last season.

Lot 160. Two, "Muoniovara, S., 18 June."
„ 161. One, same nest.
„ 162. One, same nest.
„ 163. One, same nest.

Wigeon. *Anas Penelope.* The eggs of this bird, so well known to all the natives, vary much in shape, though seldom in size or colour.

Lot 164. Two, "Muonio Alusta, 13 June," S.
„ 165. Two, same place, another nest, "8 June."
„ 166. One, same nest.

Velvet Scoter. *Anas Fusca.* By no means an easy egg to get. Often represented in collections by eggs of the Goosander, though, when fresh, they cannot well be mistaken one for the other.

Lot 167. One, "Kongasjervi, F."
„ 168. One, same nest.
„ 169. One, same nest.
„ 170. One, same nest.
„ 171. One, same nest.
„ 172. One, same nest.

Common Scoter. *Anas Nigra.* Often personated by eggs of the Red-breasted Merganser.

Lot 173. Two, "Maunu," S.
„ 174. Two, same place.
„ 175. One, "Marrainen, S."
„ 176. One, same place.
„ 177. One, same place.

Scaup Duck. *Anas Marila.* This bird is only found breeding high up the country, towards the Norwegian frontier, that the chance of eggs of the Tufted Duck being mistaken for it, is greatly, if not entirely, diminished.

Lot 178. Two, "Muotka uoma," S.
„ 179. Two, same place.
„ 180. Two, same place.
„ 181. One, same place.
„ 182. One, same place.

Tufted Duck. *Anas Fuligula.* The eggs of this bird may scarcely be said to have been known to the majority of collectors, before Mr. Wolley's first visit to Lapland. The following were taken by a man especially well acquainted with the species.

Lot 183. Two, "Serkijervi, F."
„ 184. One, same nest.
„ 185. One, same nest.
„ 186. Two, "Liepimajervi, F."
„ 187. One, same nest.
„ 188. One, same nest.

Long-tailed Duck. *Anas Glacialis.* The eggs of this bird can hardly, if at all, be distinguished from those of the Pintail, unless something more may be depended on than their appearance ; hence, those of both species, which have not been carefully kept separated from the first, or differently marked, are of no value whatever. Fortunately the Long-tailed Duck is a much later breeder than the other, which tends to diminish the difficulty.

Lot 189. One, "Nyimakka," S.
„ 190. One, same nest.

Golden-eye. *Anas Clangula.* This bird was, last season, remarkably scarce, and its eggs accordingly were in great request. Not a single nest was brought in to Mr. Wolley's chief collector, and he had some difficulty in begging the following five eggs from his hostess's winter store, at the risk of materially injuring his fare for the rest of the year.

Lot 191. Two, "Muonioniska," F.
„ 192. One, same place.
„ 193. One, same place.
„ 194. One, same place.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus Serrator.* The eggs of this species seem to vary more than any other of the *Anatidæ.*

Lot 195. Two, "Muonio alusta," S.
„ 196. Two, same place.

Goosander. *Mergus Merganser.* The Lapp who found these eggs caught the old bird on the nest and ate it.

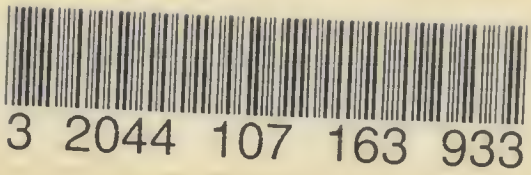
Lot 197. Two, "Akesjervi," F.
„ 198. Two, same nest.
„ 199. One, same nest.
„ 200. One, same nest.

Black-throated Diver. *Colymbus Arcticus.* These fine eggs may be thoroughly depended upon.

Lot 201. One, "Lapland," one hole at the end.
„ 202. One, "Sardio, F."

Red-throated Diver. *Colymbus Septentrionalis.* Carefully distinguished by the Finns from the foregoing species.

Lot. 203. Two, "Karesuando," S.


3 2044 107 163 933

Date Due